



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

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"Together...ReShaping Young Lives"

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Donald W. DeVore
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

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SIXTY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES STAFF RECEIVE GENDER RESPONSIVE CERTIFICATION

BALTIMORE, MD—(March 7, 2008). Secretary Donald DeVore and the Department of Juvenile Services celebrate the graduation of sixty staff from the Gender Responsive Certification Program for Girls. This statewide program included staff from both residential and community services.

The curriculum was designed to assist staff in addressing the unique need of females through the application of researched based best practices and to understand the concepts associated with the "Whole Girl." This is one example of how the Department is meeting its focus and theme of "Growing Great Girls." This eighty hour intensive training was developed with the assistance of DJS staff experts in the field of girl services, local and out of state consultants, and University of Maryland professors and psychologists.

"Gender specific programming provides girls with positive female development, decision making and life skills, and stresses the importance of valuing and celebrating the female perspective. The Department has made gender specific programming a priority and understands the connection between risk factors girls face at adolescence and protective factors that can help them grow." stated Donald DeVore, Secretary for the Department of Juvenile Services.

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